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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Association for Impact Assessment

(Special consultative status granted in 1989)

The organization was granted consultative status in 1989 and initially appointed one member liaison representative to a United Nations Office in New York. IAIA appointed member liaison representatives to the New York, Geneva, and Vienna sites for the current reporting period. In addition to official activities of the association, many individual members have contributed in their professional and private capacities to the work of the United Nations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is primarily an educational organization for environmental professionals. It was organized 25 years ago, in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of (environmental) impact assessment from all parts of the world. As of 2001, its membership numbered more than 2,500, including affiliate membership, from over 100 nations, a considerable increase from its early years of operation both in size and in distribution outside North America and Europe.

IAIA's goals are:

- To advance the state of the art of impact assessment in applications ranging from local to global, and
- To develop international and local capability to anticipate, plan, and manage the consequences of development to enhance the quality of life for all.

Much of the work of the association and its members is directly relevant to United Nations policies, programmes, and projects.

Although the membership is larger and much more international, the objectives of IAIA have not changed much over the past 25 years. Quoting from the by-laws adopted in 1980, "The Association has as its primary purpose the betterment of society through the encouragement of improved policymaking processes concerning the analysis of the future consequences of present decisions. In furtherance of this purpose the association may

1. Publish, edit, or otherwise disseminate to practitioners and the general public articles, journals, books, monographs, audio-visual materials, and newsletters concerning the practice of impact assessment;
2. Hold meetings, conferences, seminars, and other sessions at which information concerning the practice of impact assessment can be disseminated;
3. Promote, enhance, and encourage the exchange of information among practitioners and users of impact assessment and the general public;
4. Improve the quality and professionalism of persons in the field of impact assessment;
5. Otherwise encourage the growth and development of the field of impact assessment, the development of techniques in the field of impact assessment,

and the public understanding of and participation in the field of impact assessment;

6. Undertake such other activities as will further the purpose of the association.

Impact assessment is an umbrella term that encompasses many specialities of assessment, all of which work together to form a comprehensive assessment. Of particular relevance to United Nations concerns have been environmental impact assessment, biodiversity assessment, social impact assessment, health impact assessment, integrated impact assessment, and to a much lesser extent, technology assessment. In recent years, social impact assessment is finding application in various social development contexts, such as gender assessment and poverty assessment.

IAIA officers and members have participated in and contributed to a number of United Nations meetings over the past four years:

- *The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002*: IAIA organized and delivered a parallel event at the WSSD (a one-day forum entitled "*Impact Assessment, Sustainable Development and Capacity Building*") and participated in the WSSD prep-com in New York.

- *IAIA conference presentations and journal articles too numerous to detail here support United Nations interests in poverty, health, sustainability, trade, and integrated assessment* (for reference, see conference and journal abstracts on www.iaia.org).

- *Transboundary EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)*: IAIA experts have participated in and contributed to the ongoing deliberations and work of the signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and IAIA has been an observer at the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on EIA in a Trans-boundary Context.

- *Biodiversity*: At the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, Valencia, 23 November 2002, IAIA offered a side event on "*Impact Assessment and Ramsar*". Since 2001, IAIA has held a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and has provided extensive technical support to both Ramsar and Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) activities. Much of the IAIA work in Biodiversity is spearheaded by its active Biodiversity and Ecology Section.

- *Health*: IAIA recruited a member to its Board of Directors from the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) and during this reporting period has witnessed a dramatic increase in the interest and participation in the activities of its Health Impact Assessment Section, with active participation from key WHO staff.

- *Trade and Environment*: IAIA supports the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) training and capacity-building effort specifically via cooperation with the UNEP Trade and Environment Section. IAIA added a training component on its website during this reporting period; the website houses the "*UNEP Users' Training Resources Manual for Environmental Assessment*" as well as an interactive site for comments and questions about

the Manual. IAIA also participates in the UNEP Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (NISD). IAIA made a presentation to the NISD meeting at Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, in 2004 on *"IAIA and Integrated Impact Assessment"*.

- *Capacity Development:* IAIA invited United Nations representatives from UNEP and UNDP to Marrakech, Morocco (2004) to help shape IAIA's capacity development initiative, known as the Marrakech Declaration, with the understanding that the resulting initiatives would support the mutual objectives of each organization, including the Millennium Development Goals established at WSSD.

IAIA looks forward to continued mutually supportive efforts with the United Nations in the years to come.

2. International Save the Children Alliance

(General consultative status granted in 1993)

Twenty-seven Save the Children organizations make up the International Save the Children Alliance, the world's largest independent movement for children, delivering improvements for children in over 110 countries.

In a world where children continue to go hungry, where they are victims of preventable disease, where they are abused and exploited, or denied access to education, Save the Children continues its work to give all children the best possible start in life, and to universally recognize their rights.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpins everything that Save the Children does. When it was near universally ratified ten years ago, it brought with it a renewed worldwide commitment to children's rights and improving their lives. The fight to achieve this has only just begun. Fundamental changes to attitudes, behaviour and overall commitment to children are vital to protect them from horrors of wars, poverty, exploitation and abuse. The Members of the International Save the Children Alliance, as one worldwide movement for children, see it as their role to continue the fight to keep this enormous challenge in the hearts and minds of everyone who can bring about benefits in the lives of children.

In order to achieve this, Save the Children works extensively with the United Nations through the United Nations primary organs, Member States and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, both at headquarters and in the field. In the period under review and continuing into the present, Save the Children has maintained a United Nations office in New York whose sole function is to interact with and contribute to the work of the United Nations. This has been done by participation in United Nations meetings, briefing United Nations Member States and agencies on child protection issues, and providing advice and guidance on technical issues under consideration by the United Nations. Some specific examples of this include:

- *The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, New York, 25-27 June 2001* opened a window of opportunity for the international community to start working together to fight the disease. Through Save the

Children, Government delegates heard the views of many people on the frontline, including a young peer educator on HIV/AIDS who described the work she does in Lima, Peru. Our report, No Quick Fix: a sustained response to HIV/AIDS and children, gave world leaders a prescription for blocking the spread of HIV/AIDS and supporting the youngsters whose lives it is devastating.

- *The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban, South Africa, 31 August-7 September 2001*

Due to the efforts of Save the Children, young people from Roma/Traveler communities and young Latin Americans of African descent had an opportunity to contribute to the debate attended by United Nations Member States. We were delighted that many of our concerns were reflected in the final conference Declaration and Programme of Action.

- *The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, New York, 8-10 May 2002*

Save the Children participated in the most important international conference on children in more than a decade, at which the nations of the world committed themselves to a series of goals to improve the situation of children and young people. International Save the Children Alliance CEO, Burkhard Gnärig, addressed the meeting and urged the international community to adhere to vital priorities for global action, including ending child poverty, galvanizing the political will to move beyond words towards a practical, time-specific set of actions and making long-term investments in basic services which give every child a chance to reach their potential.

- During the first few months of 2003, people from all over the world were concerned about the effects a war might have on Iraqi children. The New York office was especially busy at the time, briefing the United Nations Security Council, in an Arria Formula meeting, as well as other senior United Nations staff. In September of 2003, Save the Children again briefed the Council under the Arria Formula, this time on Liberia and child protection concerns in light of the conflict there.

- In the period of 2001 to 2004, Save the Children regularly provided input into the children affected by armed conflict agenda of the United Nations. In January of 2004, we participated in an Arria Formula meeting with the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict with a briefing detailing problems faced by children in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programmes. Each year, Save the Children has been consulted by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict as he prepared the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict to the Security Council.

Furthermore, Save the Children worked extensively with United Nations agencies in coordination and as an implementing partner at the field level in many of the 110 countries in which we are operational in the period from 2001 to 2004. A few specific examples of this include:

- Save the Children has been approached on a number of occasions by UNICEF in Serbia and Montenegro to help them implement some of their goals through

project activities. In one instance, we designed and implemented a three-year project on "Community Based Rehabilitation for children with disabilities" in Serbia and Montenegro. UNICEF provided funding for Save the Children to develop and support associations of parents with children with disabilities, set up community centres and toy libraries for them and thus provide an inclusive model for active involvement of children with disabilities in mainstream society. The project went on for three years and covered 14 cities across Serbia and Montenegro, followed by a joint Save the Children-UNICEF survey on public attitudes towards inclusion of children with disabilities.

- Save the Children was asked to take the lead in coordinating child participation for the Regional Consultations (2003-2004) of the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children. We organized and facilitated processes resulting in genuine participation of children with respect to the main principles and standards of good practice in child participation. We shared our organizational learning with the other key players to ensure children were involved and provided with the opportunity to voice their opinions in an appropriate and child-friendly manner.

- In Iraq in 2002, following our research into children's treatment under the juvenile justice system, we worked with the Health and Social Affairs Ministry, together with UNICEF, to ensure that child protection was upheld.

These activities at both the field and headquarters level are just a few of the many ways in which the International Save the Children Alliance has contributed to and supported the work of the United Nations from 2001 to 2004.

3. Law Association for Asia and the Pacific

(Special consultative status granted in 1981)

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, was established in 1966 and has continued to function as the pre-eminent legal association representing the profession of the region. Its aims and objectives include, inter alia:

- To promote the administration of justice, the protection of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law within the region.

- To advance the standard of legal education within the region by all practicable means.

- To encourage communication and liaison between members in relation to general and specialized areas of law.

- To promote development of the law in the region.

- To advance the science of jurisprudence in all its phases and to promote the study and development of international law and of comparative law.

- To promote uniformity within the region in appropriate fields of law.

- To further international understanding and goodwill.

- To foster relations and intercourse between lawyers and associations and organizations of lawyers within the region.

- To uphold and advance the status of the legal profession within the region.

LAWASIA achieves its aims and objectives through provision of high-level continuing legal education at regular conferences and seminars, by promoting interface of national bodies at meetings throughout the region, through release of public statements, letters and other interventions on issues of importance to the legal profession and through provision of publications and other material aimed at increasing legal education in the region in support of the rule of law. Importantly, it provides a representative voice for the legal profession of the region, which is facilitated through the membership of national legal associations.

Official member countries/regions are:

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Macau Special Administrative Region of China, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Samoa, Viet Nam

The peak legal body of each of these countries holds a seat on the LAWASIA Council, which meets annually at various locations throughout the region. Since its last quadrennial report, LAWASIA has added Viet Nam to its member countries. LAWASIA continues to maintain dialogue with non-member countries in the region, with the aim of reminding them of the value of a regional interface of the legal profession in upholding the rule of law and promoting human rights.

In addition to member organizations representing the above-noted countries, LAWASIA has approximately 1,500 individual members drawn from the above as well as from Austria, Bermuda, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Germany, Guam, Italy, Myanmar, Netherlands, Peru, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Funding

LAWASIA is funded by income raised through membership fees, conference activity and publications. The government of the Northern Territory of Australia also provided operational funding of AUS 75,000, AUS 50,000 and AUS 12,500 in 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively, and a suite of premises to house the organization's secretariat. December 2003 saw this arrangement cease, and LAWASIA relocated its secretariat to the Queensland Law Society (QLS) in Brisbane, Queensland. It now receives annual funding of AUS 50,000 from the QLS and AUS 50,000 from the Law Foundation of Queensland, as well as a small office suite at the QLS premises. The Law Council of Australia has continued to support LAWASIA with an annual capitation grant of approximately AUS 25,000.

While LAWASIA is not sufficiently funded to send attendees to Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings and conferences, it retains a great interest in and publicises its support of the activities of the Council and the United Nations generally.

Professor Maxime Tardu has been the accredited representative on a voluntary basis for LAWASIA at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) since 1991 and regularly observes sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. His reports to the LAWASIA secretariat on United Nations activities that he attended are included in the organization's newsletter, the LAWASIA Update, as they are received, and are passed to the LAWASIA Council and Executive Committee for consideration. The LAWASIA president is also an accredited representative, so that he or she is able to attend relevant meetings if the opportunity to travel to United Nations centres in Europe and the United States should arise. Wherever possible and appropriate, United Nations representatives are among especially targeted speakers for LAWASIA conferences and meetings within the relevance of the material under discussion. The LAWASIA Update regularly carries reports and news of United Nations initiatives.

As a voice for the legal profession of the Asia Pacific region, LAWASIA has undertaken a number of interventions, has written letters, has sent observer missions and has released public and media statements on matters of concern to the legal profession. Wherever appropriate, it formulates its views and public statements based on United Nations principles, conventions, resolutions or actions. Examples from the reporting period include (but are not limited to):

- October 2001: Statement on events of 11 September 2001, encouraging adherence to principles of international law in formulating responses;
- October 2002: Statement on international tension, encouraging initiatives through appropriate United Nations bodies to improve dialogue and understanding between competing philosophies as a means of containing international tension and in particular military action or the threat of military action;
- September 2003: Statement condemning the bombing of United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad;
- October 2003: Letter to Minister of Home Affairs, Zimbabwe, following harassment of a human rights lawyer, requesting that Zimbabwe Government honours its obligation under article 17 of United Nation Principles on the Role of Lawyers;
- April 2004: Letter to Thai Prime Minister in relation to disappearance of a Thai lawyer requesting the Thai Government to be active in upholding the United Nation Principles on the Role of Lawyers;

In 2002/03, LAWASIA recommenced correspondence with the Lawyers Association of Afghanistan (LAA), which was aiming to re-establish itself following the demise of the Taliban regime. It extended ongoing complementary membership to the LAA in recognition of the financial hardship LAA faced, and provided encouragement and practical assistance where possible.

LAWASIA has continued to monitor closely and report on development of the legal system and profession in Timor-Leste since that country became independent.

It has worked with its member organization in Nepal, the Nepal Bar Association, to support the significant efforts of the legal community to see democracy and proper observance of human rights restored to that country and has

been active in bringing that situation to the attention of the region's legal community.

In addition, LAWASIA regularly disseminates the information received from a number of United Nations bodies to its Country Councillors and member organizations as a means of bringing United Nations activities to the attention of the legal profession in member countries.

4. League of Kenya Women Voters

(Special consultative status granted in 2001)

Area of activity:

A national non-partisan political women's membership organization committed to empowerment of women in Kenya. Our mission is to work together with others to promote women's active, free and equal participation in politics and public affairs through the electoral process as voters and leaders.

The League has over 20,000 members in Kenya, including Life members, Annual members and Associate members.

Sources of funding:

The League's programmes projects during this period were funded by local donors among them the Ford Foundation, British Department of Foreign Affairs and International Development (DfID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish Development Agency (DANIDA), International Republican Institute (IRI), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), The Royal Netherlands Embassy, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Action Aid, Norwegian Embassy and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The League's participation in and contribution to the work of the United Nations

1. *Participation in meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*

Delegates were sent to the 45th, 46th, 47th and 48th sessions of the CSW in New York (6-16 March 2003; 4-15 March 2002; 3-14 March 2003 and 1-12 March 2004).

The League actively participated in the planning process on the Commission on the Status of Women sessions through preparation of national reports of women's organizations, particularly on the government initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the 12 critical areas of the Platform for Action.

The planning progress with other organizations has been to agree on modalities of presenting such a formidable force as the Kenyan Women's movement delegation to the CSW sessions and to discuss how to engage the Government process to strengthen the Kenyan Delegation. The goal has been to bring women's organizations together in an effort to consolidate gains; to focus on key thematic

areas under the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), and, to develop positions to defend or introduce at the CSW sessions regarding contemporary issues facing Kenya, including challenges to reproductive rights and safeguarding women's gains through the constitutional review process. After the CSW sessions, the League over the years organized a number of dissemination forums to bring together the government and national and grass-roots players aimed at disseminating information from CSW and articulating the new strategies of implementing BPFA and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, particularly through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2. The League's economic empowerment programme

The League is working closely with the national anti-poverty initiatives in addressing poverty at the grass-roots level using a community-oriented savings and credit cooperative called Shirikisho la Wanawake Savings and Credit Society Limited (Shilawa Sacco) under its economic empowerment programme. The objective of this programme is to empower women economically so that they can use their financial stability to pursue democratic ideals as informed and gender conscious voters and leaders.

Shilawa Sacco was established in 2001 with financial assistance from the UNIFEM East and Horn of Africa office in Nairobi. Currently, the Sacco has over 1,700 members and boasts of share capital of over US$ 80,000, loans advances amounting to US$ 67,000 and 14 district branches in Kenya. The vision of Shilawa Sacco is to transform itself into a member's cooperative bank by the year 2015.

3. Women's access to justice through the League's paralegal project

The League has implemented a project on women's access to justice using paralegal volunteers at the grass-roots level with funding from SIDA-Sweden.

This project started in 2001 and aims to empower women to access justice and seek legal redress by creating awareness on human and legal rights, provide paralegal counselling and services through community-based counsellors, and provide paralegal support to administrators of justice at the local level in order to improve the "supply-side" of rights. The project is being implemented in six districts in Kenya. The impact has been that human rights violations at community level are highlighted and channelled to their respective domains in an endeavour to seek redress.

The League started in late 2004 the process of developing a gender-sensitive curriculum with funding from Action Aid Kenya to guide on training on topics related to women's rights.

4. "Initiative for Enhanced Participation of Women in Democratic Development" (1999 to June 2005) project funded by UNDP

The "Initiative for Enhanced Participation of Women in Democratic Development" project is aimed at supporting participatory development, effective governance and democratic development by increasing the level and quality of participation of women in decision-making and democratic processes.

Through this project, the League disseminated gender-sensitive civic education radio programme in national language to 5 million people every week for a period

of five and a half years. The objective was to change attitudes and practices hindering women's progress while empowering women with the information necessary to assert their rights and participate effectively in decision-making and democratic governance. This led to enhanced civic awareness and appreciation of women leadership, evident in the doubling of women members of Parliament in the 2002 general elections, and increased debate on women's rights both at the national and the grass-roots levels.

The project also facilitated the development of a gender-sensitive civic education curriculum now used by over 30 Civic Education providers in Kenya as a tool of training civic educators. A resource centre/information bureau was also established at the League secretariat in the course of implementing the project. This facility has remained a key tool for research, particularly in informing League programmes. It is also being utilized by other civil society organizations, government departments and scholars seeking information on women empowerment. The resource centre is equipped with over 2,000 books and publications, audio and videotapes with various titles on gender issues.

The League's capacity to effectively implement projects has been enhanced through establishment of an Audio-visual Studio at the League secretariat and secondment of the United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) to the League during the period of implementing this project.

5. *"Deepening Democracy through Political Accountability: A Gender Perspective" (2004) project funded by Norwegian Embassy*

The aim of the project was to increase the effectiveness of women members of Parliament through visibility, active local level engagement and citizen's participation at the constituency level.

One of the major activities of the project was conducting of "Democracy hearing forums" in constituencies with elected women members of Parliament aimed at increasing dialogue between women Members of Parliament (MPs) and their constituents, thereby promoting democracy, accountability and good governance. The forums provided an opportunity for the constituents to outline their expectations, major development priorities and to plan together with the MP. The forums assisted the MPs to understand clearly the needs of the constituents to enable them to steer development in the right direction and therefore increase democracy and local participation in governance.

The project also conducted training of the "radio listening groups" — ad hoc groups formed in various districts in the country to give feedback on the League's weekly radio programme aimed at building the capacity of the groups in regards to active listenership and to initiating advocacy on pertinent issues raised in the programme. The project facilitated production and airing of a number of radio programmes aimed to increase the visibility of women MPs by giving them an opportunity to provide their input in key topical and current developmental issues including the constitutional review process, HIV/AIDS and the Beijing Platform for Action.

6. National Facilitation Initiative

The National Facilitative Initiative project in Taita Taveta district was implemented between September 2002 to August 2004 in collaboration with UNIFEM and the Government of Kenya with financial assistance from CIDA — Canada.

The main objective of the project was to promote the observance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in key aspects of governance, economy, security, education, HIV/AIDS, and the elimination of violence against women. This was out of the realization that though Kenya is a signatory of CEDAW and BPFA, it had not taken necessary steps to institutionalize and implement these instruments at the grass-roots level. As a result, violation of women's rights was on the increase and women continued to be discriminated against in various sectors of development at the grass-roots level. This has perpetuated gender inequities and increased poverty among women and the society in general.

The focus was therefore to create awareness on relevant issues pertaining to the 12 critical areas of concern in the BPFA and to ensure that the issues pertaining to CEDAW are also understood in the district.

To achieve the set goals, the League carried out a number of activities. The gender training workshops increased gender awareness in the community and enhanced skills for the policymakers to mainstream women's concerns in district development plans. The gender resource centre enhanced the capacity of local women to use new technologies, especially accessing information through the Internet to facilitate easier access to information by women on these instruments. The resource centre is now managed by the District Development Office (DDO). The trainings initiated by the League are still going on.

The League also conducted gender forums which sensitized the community on women representation in all local development committees. As a result, women now constitute at least a third of all the committees in the district.

The gender disaggregated database that was developed in the course of implementing the project, provide clear gender-gaps in the 12 critical areas of BPFA and CEDAW. This database is a resource for reporting on the progress made in Kenya in realization of the provisions of BPFA and CEDAW. Moreover, it is a vital instrument for people who would want to work within the community in ensuring that interventions are relevant and effective.